

Each of tonight's speakers are elders who serve FPC. They will lead us through seven responses to the events of Christ's betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. These responses range from Christ's disciples, to Pontius Pilate, to a Roman Centurion.

The service will conclude with a loud noise, traditionally called the "strepitus." Strepitus is the Latin word for "great noise." This moment in the service symbolizes the moment of Christ's death, along with the earth-quake and chaos that followed, and serves as a dramatic and somber conclusion to the service, which is meant to lead the congregation into silence and contemplation about the death of Christ.

Tonight's service is an adaptation of what the church has historically called a "tenebrae" service. Tenebrae is the Latin word for "shadows." During the service, the lights will be gradually dimmed to emphasize the darkness of the events on, and leading to, Good Friday. Because this service is meant to emphasize the sadness and confusion surrounding Christ's death, we ask that you depart the sanctuary in solemn silence at the end of the service. The serious and grave tone of this service is meant to prepare us for the joy of Easter Morning

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The nursery is available during the worship service for children ages 0 to 5 years old located in the Cry Room here in the church building.

*First
Presbyterian
Church
Louisville, Mississippi*



Order for the Worship of God
April 3, 2026
Good Friday

ORDER OF WORSHIP
6:00PM

*Good Friday:
Seven Responses to the Passion of Christ*

The Welcome and Announcements

The Instrumental Prelude *Were You There?*

†The Responsive Call to Worship **Hebrews 12:1-2**
*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.
Let us worship God.*

†The Hymn *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile* No.262

†The Confession of Faith from the Westminster Larger Catechism
*Q. 49. How did Christ humble himself in his death?
A. Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and borne the weight of God's wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.*

Lesson 1: *The Sleepers* Rev. Matt Miller
Matthew 26:40-43

The Choral Anthem *Dark Gethsemane*

Lesson 2 & 3: *The Betrayer and the Denier* Elder Roger Caperton
Matthew 26:47-50, Luke 22:54-62

Lesson 4: *The Fleeing Mark* Elder Mike Triplett
Mark 14:50-52

†The Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* No. 247

Lesson 5: *The Politician* Elder Mike Forster
Matthew 27:22-24

Lesson 6: *The Mockers* Elder Will Hill
Matthew 27:39-43

†The Hymn *Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted* No. 257

Lesson 7: *The Confessor* Rev. Heath Cross
Matthew 27:50-54

†The Confession of Faith from the Heidelberg Catechism
*Q. 1 What is your only comfort in life and in death?
A. That I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation. Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.*

†The Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* No. 252

†The Benediction

†The Strepitus

(† Congregation will stand)